

MINE INSPECTION REPORT FOR Q4 2006

Executive Summary

The focus this quarter was on the sealed areas of each underground mine and belt transfer points. Also, mining sections were inspected.

The quarterly inspections of the six underground mines were as follows:

Hazleton Coal Mine, White River Coal Company

Inspection date: October 10, 2006

Areas inspected: 1st, 2nd, 5th, and 6th south seals, 2nd west seals, 1st east seals, travelways from bottom to all seal areas and to unit #7 south, 7 south belt line and 2 main west belt line, and all record books.

Findings:

1. All seal areas were safe and no gas present.
2. Main West belt needed guarded where belt goes over travelway.
3. Man door at # 17 x-cut needed repaired.
4. Unit #7 belt
 - a. head needed cleaned
 - b. tail needed cleaned
5. Unit #7
 - a. #5 face area needed line curtain advanced toward face and entry needed rock dusted.

Air reading at LOC was 24,204 cfm and all seven faces were clear of CH₄ and oxygen readings were 20.9.

All violations were corrected and mine overall was in good condition.

Solar Sources Rail Site, Solar Sources Coal Company

Inspection date: October 9, 2006

Areas Inspected: Train loadout facility, loadout belts truck and train, hydraulic units, MCC room, record books, and all equipment.

Findings:

1. All areas were clear of any CH₄ or O₂.
2. Head area at truck Loadout belt needed cleaned.

Violations were corrected, rail site is in excellent condition.

Freelandville Mine, Triad Coal Company

Inspection date: October 13, 2006

Areas Inspected: Unit 1 south 10 entries, travelway from bottom to unit 1, 1st SW panel seals, 2nd SW panel seals, 3rd SW panel seals, 4th SW panel seals, 2 MN drive area, 2 MN drive area. Air reading at LOC unit 1 was 19,280 cfm all faces were clear.

Findings:

1. 2 SW panel seals between #2 and #3 seals needed more roof support.
2. 1 South unit: Outby #3 entry bolts were hanging down and needed removed.
3. Curtain needed advanced in face area x-cut 4 to 5 during mining cycle.
4. Curtain needed extended in face area entry #7.

Action taken: Operators were told about keeping curtain within 40 ft. of the face.

All violations were being attended to and corrected. Freelandville mine is in good condition.

Francisco Mine, Black Beauty Coal Company

Inspection Date: October 18, 2006

Areas Inspected: 6 east unit 8 entries, all faces were clear LOC air reading was 38,259 cfm. Travelway from 6 east unit to bottom, 1st east seals, 1st south east seals, 4 east seals, 5th east, and entire mine return.

Findings: Gases were all clear, return was well rockdusted, mine top was in good condition, air was traveling its normal course and the mine is in excellent condition.

Gibson Mine, Gibson County Coal Company

Inspection Date: October 30, 2006 (afternoon shift)

Areas Inspected: Travelway from bottom to unit 4, belt transformers and fire stations along travelway. Heads and tail areas of the N54 belt, 1st 48 west belt, 2nd 48 west belt, 3rd west 48 belt, 4th 48 travelway to 8 x-cut, 4b travelway to unit 4, all face areas of unit 4 and section in general. LOX-cut air reading was 32,848 cfm on unit 4. All faces were clear of gas and unit was in good condition.

Findings:

1. #56 x-cut, a bottle of oxygen was not secured on a work wagon.
2. 1st 48 west belt tail had a BO impact roller.
3. 2nd 48 west head to drive needed rock dusted.
4. 3rd 48 west tail to drive needed rock dusted.
5. N54 belt tail to 3 x-cuts inby needed rock dusted.
6. N54 head and slope tail needed cleaned and rock dusted.

All violations were attended to and none of the findings were substantial or significant. The mine was in good condition and workers and company personnel were cooperative and cordial.

Prosperity Coal Mine, Five Star Coal Company

Inspection date: November 6, 2006 (afternoon shift)

Areas Inspected: Walked the main west #1 belt, main west #2 belt, main west #3 belt, main west #4 belt, and main west #5 belt. Unit #4, travelway from bottom to unit #4, all mine records, the preparation plant. Unit 4 faces were clear of gas, air reading LOC 23,780 cfm. The unit was very wet and muddy, mining conditions are tough, but the unit was being run in a safe manner.

Findings:

1. MW #1 belt inby belt drive fire extinguisher needed inspection tag update.

2. MW #1 belt area from #15 to #18 X-cut needed cleaned where bottom rollers close to the ground.
3. Rib at #34 X-cut on north side of belt needed pried down and added support.
4. Rib at #70 x-cut north side of belt needed pried down.
5. MW #2 belt inby head at take-up area needs cleaned .
6. MW #2 belt needed cleaned under bottom rollers from head inby 5 x-cuts.
7. Tail area needed cleaned.
8. MW #3 belt take-up area needed cleaned.
9. MW #3 belt at 69 x-cut Hi-line needs guarded if area is traveled and there was evidence of travel.
10. MW#4 belt inby head at start of take-up needs cleaned under rollers.
11. MW#4 belt from take-up to tail needed spot cleaned under rollers.
12. MW#5 belt head area needed cleaned.
13. MW#5 belt #12 x-cut at scoop charger and battery station trash needed cleaned up.
14. MW#5 belt X-cut #14 coal pile needed cleaned up and area dusted.
15. Preparation plant was in excellent condition well cleaned, the only violation found was a cap needed replaced on an oxygen cylinder.

All violations were being addressed and mine personnel and workers were co-operative and helpful.

Air Quality # 1 Mine, Black Beauty Coal Company

Inspection date: November 7, 2006 (midnight shift)

Areas Inspected: Travelway from bottom to unit #1 and unit #2 and from unit #2 to south portal. 1A, 1B, 1C, 4MNA, 4MNB, and 5 west belt heads, drives, take-ups, tails, and belt transformers. All record books. Unit #1 and Unit #2. Equipment: #35, #42, #48, and #29 Miners. #12 roof bolter. Battery charging stations on unit #1 and #2. Unit #1 all faces were clear of CH₄ and O₂ was normal. LOC air reading 29,862 cfm. Unit #2 all faces were clear of CH₄ and O₂ was normal. LOC air reading 25,470 cfm.

Findings:

1. #48 miner needed cleaned.
2. Belt transformer at 95 X-cut had fire extinguisher with no inspection tag.
3. 5 west belt head to drive area needed cleaned.
4. 1C belt outby tail spill at scrapper needed cleaned and tail area.
5. 1B belt head roller needed guarded.
6. Unit #2 #1 battery charger needed rubber mats at charger.

Battery stations and transformer areas that were inspected needed better housekeeping. This was discussed with the mine manager. All violations were attended to and areas that were inspected were in good condition overall. All persons involved in the mining and supervisory positions were helpful and courteous.

Carlisle Mine, Sunrise Coal Company

Inspection date: December 22, 2006 (day shift)

Areas Inspected: Slope to bottom, all four faces. This mine just started coal producing procedures and just started their return shaft fan this morning. Inspected the intake and return shaft. Inspected the surface facility, which is not in operation as of yet. The preparation plant is due to clean coal in January.

Findings: The mine has some water issues being newly developed, but they are maintaining the situation. All faces were clear of methane. Recommendations that the oxygen and acetylene tanks in plant area when not being in use to be capped and secured. General condition of the mine and surface areas were good. Personnel were helpful and courteous.

Deputy Commissioner
Bureau of Mines
Don McCorkle